

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

Volume: 4-03
Released: April 28, 2003
Week Ending: April 27, 2003

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Weather and Overview: Wet conditions and cool temperatures prevailed over much of the State throughout the week, aiding range, pasture and crop conditions but inhibiting field and preparation work. Snowfall occurred in south and northeast Oregon. Frost experienced in some areas, but no significant damage reported. Some windy conditions delayed weed spraying progress. North Bend reported last week's precipitation 2.35 inches above normal. Willamette Valley weather stations reported growing degree days ranging from 15 to 22 days below normal. The cold temperatures were felt hardest in southwest and south central Oregon, with temperatures as much as 8 degrees below normal.

Field Crops: Statewide rain and snow hampered field activities. Planting, spraying and fertilizing occurred when possible. In eastern Oregon, fall grain and alfalfa were greening up. Some plowing was underway. Some wheat fields exhibited some chlorosis. Spring wheat and barley planting was nearly complete in most areas. Fieldwork continued in western Oregon. Some areas reported winter wheat fields showing some yellow due to excessive rain. Hay fields and grass seed fields looked good. Mildew and septoria showed up in some winter wheat fields. Alfalfa and clover was in good shape. Most field crops looked good.

Vegetables: Vegetable growers were well behind planting schedules due to cool, wet weather. In Marion County, greenhouse and over winter vegetables were going to market; cannery crops all delayed and may be too late to plant any more green peas. First sweet corn plantings reported in Jackson County. The potato planting was underway in Baker County and some onions were being planted in Klamath County.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries still shipping balled and burlaped and container material but are past the peak of the season. Greenhouses shipping bedding plants to retail outlets; however, home gardeners are being slowed down with too much rain. Spring plant sales were going strong with five or six major sales each weekend in the Portland area. Christmas trees were starting to bud out.

Fruit: Fruit trees continued in various stages of bloom Statewide; Wasco County reported early cherries the size of sweet pea seeds. Most berries were leafing out. Many areas are experiencing poor fruit pollination due to low bee activity, cool/wet weather, frost damage, or a combination of all three. The cool and rainy weather has made orchard spraying difficult.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastureland continued to green nicely from recent moisture, but the lack of warm temperatures has delayed forage growth. Stock water still a cause for concern in eastern Oregon. In Wallowa County, more livestock were turned out to pasture, due to lack of hay. Ranchers busy branding, while some late heifers were still calving. Sheep shearing in progress.

Crop Progress Week Ending 4/27/03

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley planted (%)	67	66	82	84
All Barley emerged (%)	44	42	62	--
Spring wheat planted (%)	88	86	94	92
Spring wheat emerged (%)	52	50	84	--
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.7	6.1	--	--

Soil Moisture Week Ending 4/27/03

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	2	14	72	12
Subsoil (%)	15	20	55	10

Crop Condition Week Ending 4/27/03

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat %	--	14	57	27	2
Barley condition %	--	5	62	28	5
Range & Pasture %	5	14	35	42	4

CLACKAMAS: Winter wheat fields are showing some yellowing due to excessive rain. Hay fields and grass seed crops were still looking good. Bartlett pears past bloom, hope there was enough bee activity to pollinate them. Strawberries starting a few blossoms but vine growth still small. Caneberries leafing. Vegetable growers were well behind on planting schedules while waiting for a few dry days. Nurseries were past the late winter and early spring shipping rush. Most current shipments were for specific orders. Livestock appear to be in good condition.

COOS\CURRY: Pasture and range conditions continued to be affected by cool temperatures and rainfall. Lowlands continued to be inundated by surface water hampering grazing. Brookings: precipitation for the week was 3.96 inches - 3.41 inches above a three-year average. Weather year precipitation is now above the three-year average. Low temperature was 1.4 degrees below average and high was 2.16 below. Bandon: precipitation for the week was 1.81 inches above the five-year average, with 2.31 inches on 5 days. Weather year precipitation is now slightly above the five-year average. Low temperature for the period was 1.36 degrees below average, while the high temperature was 4.78 degrees below average.

JACKSON: Alfalfa, grasses and final grain plantings being made. Soil being tilled for corn and vegetable plantings when it is dry enough. Petal fall and disease sprays being applied as weather permits. First sweet corn plantings being made. Greenhouses still getting out flower and vegetable starts. Nurseries still selling some balled and potted trees and shrubs. Livestock on pastures looked good. Calving continued. Dry ground pastures are now full of feed and still growing with the wet weather.

JOSEPHINE: Measurable precipitation every day this week. Typical April with windy, showery, and chilly conditions. Had measurable snow on several days. Last year at this time had all sprinkler systems going and it was 80 degrees. Nice to be back to typical. We had several frosts but did not appear to be hard enough to cause damage. All fruit trees are in full bloom-apples, cherries, plums, pears, peaches, etc.

LANE: Apple and pear bloom continued. Scab sprays ongoing. Blueberries blooming. Blackberries and raspberries budding out. Grapes were at bud break a week ago, with some light frost damage. Looks like fruit pollination will be poor this year. Soil still too wet to start vegetable plantings. Greenhouse and over winter vegetables were going to market. Growers waiting for the weather to change.

MARION: Wet weather continued to hamper field operations. Most field crops look fairly good. However, there are areas in some wheat fields and some grasses that are suffering from moisture stress. Grass seed being sprayed for weeds. Mildew and septoria were showing up in some of the winter wheat fields. Cannery crops have all been delayed. It is too late to plant green peas now. Fertilizer applications continue on fall crops. Spray applications continue as conditions allow. Potential for soil quality damage is high if worked or traveled on, due to saturated conditions.

WASHINGTON: Fall wheat growing well in good drainage fields. Spraying and fertilizing continues, weather permitting. Alfalfa and clover growing rapidly. Beets for seed doing well. Blueberries and strawberries beginning to show blooms. Caneberries leafing. Raspberries budding. Rhubarb looked good. At nurseries and greenhouses, there was some irrigation on recently moved pots. Rotating small shrubs and potted plants. Sales brisk but will accelerate when the sun comes out. Wet conditions continued. There were three partly sunny days.

YAMHILL: Cool, rainy weather created conditions unfavorable for disease control sprays in the orchards. The weather pattern has not been favorable for pollination of cherries or apples.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Potato planting underway. A few wheat fields exhibiting some chlorosis. Bedding plants being shipped. Branding and turnout progressing well. Range growing slowly due to cool weather. Despite recent rains, it was still dry. Stock water may become a problem.

HARNEY: Fall grain and alfalfa greening up. April rainfall is about half an inch above average, which has improved range conditions. The outlook for a decent grass year is getting better. Rains helped grass conditions. Branding and turnout were in full swing. Still some areas of snow.

HOOD RIVER: In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were at petal fall; Red Delicious apples were at full bloom (WSU stage 8); cherries were at petal fall. Pinot noir grapes were at bud burst to one inch shoot growth. Intermittent rain has resulted in sporadic pear and apple scab infection periods in most areas of the Hood River Valley. Fire blight risk remained low. Temperatures in mid-twenties to low-thirties had growers using fans and orchard heaters late in week.

KLAMATH: The ground is saturated and precipitation in the form of rain and snow continued. Farmers still can't get into the fields to get their crops planted. Spring preparation work and planting delayed by snowy, wet weather. Receiving cutting potato seed. Some onion planting. Some hay feeding continued. Most cattle turned out on short pasture.

LAKE: Cooler temperatures have delayed the growth of forage on grazing lands. Much of precipitation during week was in the form of snow. This has delayed spring field work for many regions in the county.

MALHEUR: Rain storms throughout the week helped tremendously. Some alfalfa was beginning to bloom. Range looks good. There is still a shortage of livestock water. Irrigation water is still short, but it was in much better shape than earlier this spring.

MORROW: For this time of year, pastures are getting some rain. At this point, the timeliness of the rains is as important as the total amount.

SHERMAN: Weed spraying and tillage continued. Spring seeding nearing completion. Maybe more bottom plowing this spring. Drought caused low yields each of the last four years and didn't raise enough residue to meet conservation compliance, but did increase weed production, so this will contribute a true "clean tillage" impact for fields. Still could use rains to feed deep moisture, which would benefit both grass and water availability.

UNION: Cold, stormy weather continued to hamper spring field work. Moisture was greatly appreciated. A big thunderstorm on Wednesday brought a lot of rain and wind to the valley and snow to the higher elevations. The rest of the week continued mostly wet. Foothills are starting to green up. Rainfall is up 40 percent over last year; 9.36 inches have fallen compared to 5.86 at this point last year.

WALLOWA: The weather has been off and on rain and snow this week. The sun came out a couple of days to try and dry things out, but it didn't stay very warm. The lack of warm temperatures has stunted the growth of crops and pasture. The grass is greening up but no real good growth yet. The planting days were limited due to wet ground conditions. More livestock is being turned out due to lack of hay.

WASCO: Wind continued to delay weed spraying in both winter wheat crops and no-till summer fallow. Moldboard plowing is in full swing. Spring wheat and barley nearing completion. Rains will aid crop germination. Alfalfa crops putting on growth, but no buds yet. Light frosts continued, but no significant damage is apparent at this time. Pollination of cherry trees in the earliest areas of the district was poor. That, coupled with some damage to the buds during the Halloween freeze, might make for a very light fruit set in the earliest areas. Frost fans operated several nights at end of week. Rhubarb starting to be harvested and strawberries were in bloom. Most fruit blooms had all dropped by end of week. Cherry trees nearly all leafed out and early cherries are about the size of sweet pea seeds. Beef cattle are doing well on lush grasses. A few late heifers still calving. Sheep shearing in progress. Rainfall was over three fourths of an inch in two days. Temperatures at night were from frost to low 50's, while day time temperatures ranged from mid 50's to high 60's. Approximately five days were open for field work.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING April 27, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	37	63	49	-1	2	-6	1.21	0.28	5	56.26	-1.88	97	147
Crescent City	41	60	50	-1	6	-22	3.44	2.58	6	56.18	-3.08	95	107
Florence	36	65	48	-3	3	-11	2.22	1.17	5	72.60	4.92	107	133
North Bend	39	59	48	-3	1	-13	2.35	1.45	5	61.93	4.89	109	129
Tillamook	34	62	48	-2	0	-7	1.51	0.31	5	78.54	1.40	102	141
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	37	66	50	-2	6	-15	1.52	1.02	6	32.42	-5.5	85	109
Eugene	35	63	48	-4	2	-21	2.18	1.58	7	38.59	-5.36	88	126
Hillsboro	33	65	48	-3	2	-19	1.55	1.13	6	34.27	1.49	105	126
McMinnville	33	66	48	-4	2	-19	1.65	1.16	6	37.40	-1.45	96	129
Portland	36	68	50	-3	5	-22	1.16	0.67	5	31.40	0.57	102	126
Salem	34	65	48	-3	2	-17	1.32	0.83	6	36.55	2.14	106	129
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	37	67	48	-8	7	-33	2.02	1.67	7	31.77	3.28	112	98
Medford	34	61	49	-5	7	-27	1.09	0.86	4	21.17	4.76	129	93
Roseburg	37	62	49	-5	5	-27	1.95	1.51	7	30.88	1.71	106	115
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	28	62	45	-2	1	-6	0.44	0.16	5	9.93	-0.61	94	86
Heppner	31	68	49	-2	10	-11	0.45	0.16	4	10.12	-0.26	97	87
Hermiston	33	68	53	-1	24	-12	0.66	0.52	3	7.17	-0.01	100	69
John Day	31	60	46	-3	3	-11	1.11	0.83	5	9.03	0.22	102	83
Moro	29	65	46	-3	4	-10	0.34	0.20	3	9.48	0.56	106	69
Pendleton	34	65	50	-3	10	-19	0.66	0.45	4	10.31	0.89	109	86
The Dalles	33	67	52	3	18	0	0.71	0.57	4	13.59	3.21	131	81
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	25	64	42	-3	0	-12	0.43	0.29	4	5.92	-3.02	66	50
Burns	25	58	43	-3	0	-7	0.73	0.59	7	6.37	-0.65	91	67
Klamath Falls	25	54	40	-7	0	-14	0.81	0.67	7	9.67	-1.26	88	72
Lakeview	25	48	38	-7	0	-7	0.30	0.02	4	3.36	-8.66	28	41
Redmond	22	60	42	-4	0	-14	0.41	0.27	5	4.66	-1.41	77	58
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	23	64	47	-1	4	-10	0.72	0.51	4	5.60	-1.02	85	73
Joseph	29	68	46	5	6	4	0.77	0.35	4	14.67	-4.29	77	109
La Grande	28	66	48	-2	6	-10	0.63	0.28	4	8.24	-4.52	65	80
Union	28	68	49	2	16	2	1.17	0.88	6	11.79	2.91	133	95
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	30	71	54	1	36	-3	0.26	0.12	4	6.24	-1.29	83	64
Rome	26	62	46	-3	4	-17	1.01	0.82	3	4.62	-0.76	86	54

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Oregon Crop Weather 4-03

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